



Washington
Secretary of State
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August 24, 2006

Yakima County Canvassing Board
128 N. 2nd Avenue
Yakima, WA 98901

Dear Canvassing Board Members:

In accordance with RCW 29A.04.570, the State Election Certification and Training Program conducted a comprehensive review of election procedures in Yakima County during the 2005 Primary Election.

The RCW also requires a follow-up visit prior to the next Primary or General Election to verify the County Auditor's Office has taken the steps necessary to correct the changes recommended in the review report.

The following are the conclusions made by the reviewer during the follow-up visit.

1. *The reviewer recommended the Elections Department change their procedures for placing voters on inactive status. Placing a voter on inactive status based on a request from a family member does not comply with the RCW.*

The elections staff immediately changed their procedures and consequently reinstated these voters to active status.

2. *The reviewer recommended the elections staff change the questionnaire that they send to junior taxing districts to request information about the annual salary for the positions rather than the filing fee.*

The Elections Department did not send questionnaires to the junior taxing districts in 2006, however; they will change the questionnaire prior to sending the questionnaires for 2007.

3. *The reviewer recommended the Elections Department change their procedures to include a numbered seal and a seal log for the ballot deposit box located in the Auditor's Office rather than use a padlock.*

The Elections Department changed their procedures accordingly before the 2005 General Election.

4. *The reviewer recommended the Elections Department update the application for a special absentee ballot to include the statement required by the RCW which indicates the voter is unable to receive and return a regular absentee in the standard time frame.*

The elections staff changed the application to comply with the statute.

I commend the Elections Department for their obvious dedication to the election process and their desire to improve an already excellent operation.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 360.902.4159 or tbuckles@secstate.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tracy Buckles". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tracy Buckles
Elections Program Specialist